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C. C. New-Orleans Daily Bee

Friday Morning, March 9, 1849.

Report on the Tariff.

On Monday the 26th ult. the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives submitted a report upon the numerous memorials from Pennsylvania, for a repeal or modification of the existing Tariff, such as shall remove the depression of the mining and manufacturing interest of that State. The report is said to be exceedingly long, occupying forty columns in small type. The result arrived at by the Committee is not that we can give to-day. The Committee suggest reduction of duties on raw materials which do not come in competition with our own productions. A gradual reduction of duty on iron. Duties to be specified as far as practicable. Duty on cotton goods increased to some extent. Also on woollens—the duty not to be so high as by the tariff of 1842, 30 per cent., but higher than under that of 1846, thirty per cent. We quote from the report the following passage:

"In framing the minute information requisite for the discharge of this duty, it would suggest that the principle of specific, as far as practicable, in the present duty upon cotton goods should be extended to some extent. We doubt the wisdom of the policy which shall bring into the country the finer cotton goods—costing from 25 to 35 cents per yard, cotton goods—the raw material of which is the cheapest production of the country, and all the facilities for producing the same are here. The duty upon coarse cotton goods under the tariff of 1842, was unnecessarily high, and should have been reduced to the standard of 1846 at least 5 per cent—a proper measure which was not carried out because of the opposition of the American interest.

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"Here should be a thorough modification of the whole system of duties upon manufactures. If the duties upon paper were reduced to the standard of 1846, the consumer would probably not realize the present rates. Sugar is a luxury which is receiving specific duty, and we hear a reduction from the tariff of 1842 from twelve per cent. to thirty per cent—a reduction to that extent. While we have in the country millions of consumers of sugar, it is a question of wisdom that we impose such a duty as will give to our planters the American market, and prevent our shipping the carrying trade of the world.

"We have attempted to throw out these hints for the consideration of duty, but we have not attempted that specific information which a committee of Congress could have access to, and which alone could be necessary to enable them to act safely. We are, however, fully satisfied that a reduction of duty between the acts of 1842 and 1846 would give the necessary amount of revenue, and at the same time afford that protection to the great interests of the country, which is essential to our prosperity.

"We are also impressed with the belief that the wants of the government, as well as the wants of the people, will require a resort to specific, in many respects, the revised duties. The tariff of 1846 has not yet satisfied us that it will answer as a revenue measure. Ever since it has been in operation there has been a train of events which have operated directly to fill our coffers, and to create an increase of revenue.

"The famine abroad created such a demand for our breadstuffs and provisions as to enable us in 1847 to export $70,000,000 of those articles more than during the preceding year. This unnatural state of things, created by causes with which our tariff had nothing to do, and over which it had no power, enabled us to increase the revenue nearly to the same extent, and thus keep up the revenue.

"Many of Lamb's descriptions of English life and manners two centuries ago, show that with all the progress which are ascribed to the civilization of the present day, a great aggregate improvement has taken place. There is no species of progress to the disadvantage of the poor; a train of which declares an increase of humane feeling; and proves that men are becoming more the brothers of one another. The following sentiment is no less instructive than it is graphically drawn:

"Still more important is the benefit which the classes of society, and especially the lower classes, have derived from the modifying influence of civilization on the natural character. The grim and warlike features of that character have undergone the same mitigation many generations, in the sense in which the ground work of the character of an individual may be said to be the same when he is a tame, a thoughtless schoolboy, and when he is a refined and accomplished man. It is pleasing to reflect that the public mind of England has softened while it has ripened: and that we have, in the course of centuries, not only grown wiser, but also a kinder people. There is scarcely a page of the history of the lighter literature of the 17th century, which does not contain some proof that our ancestors were more barbarous than their posterity. The disappearance of workships, of schisms, of private families, though not more efficient than repressive, was ultimately harsher. Masters, willing and bred, were in the habit of beating their servants. Bullying was the way of imparting knowledge: but by beating with the usual prices would probably be

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